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Response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
Expedited Procedure  
Examining Group 2873

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PATENT  
ATTORNEY DOCKET: 46969-5102-01

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
Takanori MAEDA et al. ) Confirmation No.: 6766  
Application No.: 10/624,929 ) Group Art Unit: 2873  
Filed: July 23, 2003 ) Examiner: Jack Dinh  
For: VARIABLE OPTICAL ELEMENT, )  
A PICKUP APPARATUS HAVING )  
THE VARIABLE OPTICAL )  
ELEMENT, AND AN )  
INFORMATION RECORDING )  
AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS )  
HAVING THE PICKUP )  
APPARATUS )

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
**Customer Window, Mail Stop AF**  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

**AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL FORM**

1. Transmitted herewith is an Amendment in response to the Office Action dated November 14, 2005.
2. Additional papers enclosed:

Drawings: \_\_\_\_\_ sheets with \_\_\_\_\_ figures  
 Information Disclosure Statement  
 Form PTO-1449  
 Citations  
 Declaration of Biological Deposit  
 Submission of "Sequence Listing", computer readable copy and/or amendment pertaining thereto for biotechnology invention containing nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence.

3. Extension of Time

The proceedings herein are for a patent application and the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) apply.

Applicants believe that no extension of time is required. However, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that Applicants have inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition and fee for extension of time.

Applicants petition for an extension of time, the fees for which are set out in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a), for the total number of months checked below:

Total Months <u>Requested</u>	Fee for <u>Extension</u>	[Fee for Small Entity]
<input type="checkbox"/> one month	\$ 120.00	\$ 60.00
<input type="checkbox"/> two months	\$ 450.00	\$ 225.00
<input type="checkbox"/> three months	\$ 1,020.00	\$ 510.00
<input type="checkbox"/> four months	\$ 1,590.00	\$ 795.00

Extension of time fee due with this request: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If an additional extension of time is required, please consider this a Petition therefor.

An extension for \_\_\_\_\_ months has already been secured and the fee paid therefor of \_\_\_\_\_ is deducted from the total fee due for the total months of extension now requested.

4. Constructive Petition

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0573. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

5. Fee Calculation (37 C.F.R. §1.16)

CLAIMS AS AMENDED						
	Claims Remaining After Amendment		Highest No. Previously Paid	Present Extra	at Rate of	Total Fees
Total Claims (37 C.F.R. §1.16(c))	8	minus	20	0	x \$50 each =	+ \$0.00
Independent Claims (37 C.F.R. §1.16(b))	1	minus	3	0	x \$200 each =	+ \$0.00
[ ] First presentation of Multiple dependent claim(s)					\$360.00	+ \$0.00
SUB-TOTAL =						\$0.00
Reduction by ½ for filing by a small entity						- \$0.00
TOTAL FEE =						\$0.00

6. Fee Payment

No fee is to be paid at this time.

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_-month extension of time fee.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge \_\_\_\_\_ to Deposit Account No. 50-0573 for the \_\_\_\_\_ fee.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0573.

Respectfully submitted,

**DRINKER, BIDDLE & REATH LLP**


Dated: February 14, 2006

By:

Paul A. Fournier  
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**AMENDMENT**

In response to the Office Action dated November 14, 2005, the period for response to which extends through February 14, 2005, entry of the following amendments is respectfully requested to place the application in clear condition for allowance or, alternatively, in better form for appeal.